

Jim Kolbe
5418 East Sixth Street
Tucson, Arizona 85711

February 15, 2010

Carla Kerekes Martin
President
Empire Ranch Foundation
P. O. Box 875
Sonoita, AZ 85637

Dear Carla,

It is my understanding that the Empire Ranch Foundation is planning to submit a request to Representative Gabrielle Giffords to obtain a small amount of funding from Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations for the *Empire Ranch Headquarters Restoration & Preservation* project. I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for this request.

As you may know, I grew up with my family on a ranch in the Sonoita Valley, just a few miles from the headquarters of the Empire Ranch. As a young child, and then as a teenager, my siblings and I spent many hours with the Boice family at their ranch and home. So, I have a strong sentimental attachment to the ranch and its preservation.

However, I know that the Empire Ranch is important for much more than my own personal, sentimental reasons. Located in the heart of the 42,000 acres Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, which I helped to create with legislation I sponsored while a member of Congress, the Empire Ranch is one of the last, large and nearly intact cattle ranches in the southwest. The headquarters is one of Pima County's special treasures, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a Save America's Treasures' project. But preservation of the buildings is not just about preserving an historic part of our history, important though that is. The headquarters complex provides the community a great living resource to experience and learn first hand about the important role cattle ranching has played in Arizona's economy, past and present.

The Empire Ranch Foundation (ERF), in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has spent the past ten years working to preserve, restore, and interpret the Empire Ranch headquarters buildings and landscape for the many visitors who come each year. The Foundation, with an average annual income of \$98,000 the past five years, has contributed nearly \$500,000 and thousands of volunteer hours for preservation work at the Empire Ranch. Moreover, the Foundation's outreach and education programs continue to

grow and flourish. Among the programs the Foundation sponsors is the award-winning "*Wild About the Grasslands!*" summer and spring camps. Each year for the past ten years, the Foundation has sponsored an annual Roundup & Open House that draws more than 2000 visitors.

As I understand it, this grant would help with the preservation of the Adobe Hay Barn and adding the Childrens' Addition. These are key buildings that would allow for continuation and expansion of outreach and education to thousands of new and returning visitors. These programs offer children and adults the opportunity to learn about the history and explore the historic Empire Ranch. This investment will lay the groundwork for a lifelong stewardship of these historic treasures.

I am enthusiastic about the work of the Foundation and very supportive of this grant request. Please let Congresswoman Giffords and her staff know that they are welcome to contact me should they have questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jim Kolbe



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520) 740-8661 FAX (520) 740-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

February 17, 2010

Carla Kerekes Martin, President
Empire Ranch Foundation
P. O. Box 875
Sonoita, Arizona 85637

Dear Ms. Martin:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Empire Ranch Foundation's Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriation Request to The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords for the *Empire Ranch Headquarters Restoration & Preservation* project. The historic Empire Ranch, in the heart of the 42,000 acres Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, is one of Pima County's special treasures, providing our community the opportunity to experience and learn about the importance of ranching to our local economy, past and present. The Empire Ranch has earned its place in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Save America's Treasures project. It is one of Pima County's true treasures.

The proposed projects, to restore the Adobe Hay Barn and Children's Addition, will greatly enhance the ability to expand and enhance outreach activities at the Empire Ranch. The restored Adobe Hay Barn will be an ideal setting for large audiences interested in historical presentations and western storytelling. The Children's Addition will provide a permanent, safe, and secure home for the *Wild About the Grasslands!* youth education program.

The strong commitment of the Empire Ranch Foundation (ERF), in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to preserve, restore, and interpret the Empire Ranch headquarters buildings and landscape is remarkable in its longevity and accomplishments. Since its founding in 1998, nearly \$500,000 has been invested for preservation work at the Empire Ranch. The Foundation's outreach and education programs provide ranching heritage education to our youth. The Ninth Annual Roundup & Open House last year drew over 2,000 visitors to the ranch to learn about western heritage through demonstrations, arena and livestock exhibits, Kid's Corral, cowboy storytelling, and Western entertainment.

Ms. Carla Kerekes Martin
February 17, 2010
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Wild about the Grasslands! spring and summer camps engage our youth in ecology, ranching and western heritage. The camps offer children the opportunity to learn the history and explore the historic Empire Ranch. This investment will lay the groundwork for their lifelong stewardship of our historic treasures.

I support this project in its entirety. Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk



Board of Supervisors

Santa Cruz County

JOHN MAYNARD
District 3

February 8, 2010

Carla Kerekes Martin, President
Empire Ranch Foundation
P. O. Box 875
Sonoita, AZ 85637

Dear Ms. Martin,

I'm writing to register my strong support for the Empire Ranch Foundation's Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriation Request to Representative Gabrielle Giffords for the *Empire Ranch Headquarters Restoration & Preservation* project. The historic Empire Ranch, located in the heart of the 42,000 acres Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, is one of Southern Arizona's special treasures, providing our community the opportunity to experience and learn about the importance of ranching to our local economy, past and present.

The strong commitment of the Empire Ranch Foundation (ERF), in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to preserve, restore, and interpret the Empire Ranch headquarters buildings and landscape is outstanding. It's impressive that the Foundation, with an average annual income of \$98,000 the past five years, has managed to contribute, since its founding in 1998, nearly \$500,000 for preservation work at the Empire Ranch. The Empire Ranch has earned its place in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Save America's Treasures' project.

ERF's outreach and education programs are of special benefit to the citizen's of Santa Cruz County, especially our youth. Your annual Roundup & Open House provides an opportunity for those attending to learn about Western heritage through demonstrations, arena and livestock exhibits, Kid's Corral, cowboy storytelling, and Western entertainment.

I'm delighted that so many Elgin/Patagonia/Sonoita youth have participated in your highly successful ecology and ranching heritage outdoor education program-- *Wild about the Grasslands!* The spring and summer adventure camps at the historic Empire Ranch, in the heart of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, in collaboration with the BLM, have proven invaluable in educating the youth of our community so that as citizens they understand the value of their natural and cultural resources and have the desire and means to practice sustainable stewardship.

The proposed projects, to restore the Adobe Hay Barn and Children's Addition, will greatly enhance the ability to expand and enhance outreach activities at the Empire Ranch. The restored Adobe Hay Barn will be the ideal setting for large audiences interested in historical presentations and western storytelling. The Children's Addition will provide a permanent, safe, and secure home for the *Wild About the Grasslands!* youth education program.

You have my enthusiastic support for this project. Please be sure to contact me at (520)375-7812 or by email at jmaynard@co.santa-cruz.az.us if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

John Maynard
Supervisor, District #3



PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 WEST CONGRESS, 11th FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317
(520) 740-8094
(520) 740-2721 FAX

RAY CARROLL
COUNTY SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 4

February 5, 2010

Carla Kerekes Martin
President
Empire Ranch Foundation
P. O. Box 875
Sonoita, AZ 85637

Dear Carla,

I'm delighted to provide this letter of support for the Empire Ranch Foundation's Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriation Request to Representative Gabrielle Giffords for the *Empire Ranch Headquarters Restoration & Preservation* project. The historic Empire Ranch, located in the heart of the 42,000 acres Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, is one of Pima County's special treasures, providing our community the opportunity to experience and learn about the importance of ranching to our local economy, past and present.

I've been impressed by the strong commitment of the Empire Ranch Foundation (ERF), in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to preserve, restore, and interpret the Empire Ranch headquarters buildings and landscape. It's impressive that the Foundation, with an average annual income of \$98,000 the past five years, has managed to contribute, since its founding in 1998, nearly \$500,000 for preservation work at the Empire Ranch. The Empire Ranch has earned its place in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Save America's Treasures' project.

The Foundation's outreach and education programs do so much for our community, and more specifically, our youth. The 9th annual Roundup & Open House last year drew over 2,000 visitors to the ranch to learn about Western heritage through demonstrations, arena and livestock exhibits, Kid's Corral, cowboy storytelling, and Western entertainment.

Especially exciting is the Foundation's highly successful education program for children. *Wild about the Grasslands!* spring and summer camps engage our youth in ecology, ranching and western heritage. The camps offer children the opportunity to learn the history and explore the historic Empire Ranch. This investment will lay the groundwork for their lifelong stewardship of our historic treasures.

The proposed projects, to restore the Adobe Hay Barn and Children's Addition, will greatly enhance the ability to expand and enhance outreach activities at the Empire Ranch. The restored Adobe Hay Barn will be the ideal setting for large audiences interested in historical presentations and western storytelling. The Children's Addition will provide a permanent, safe, and secure home for the *Wild About the Grasslands!* youth education program.

I support this project in its entirety. Please be sure to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Carroll".

Ray Carroll